

Message Text

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65-62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 /094 W

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R 202130Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7273

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS LIMA 8668

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EINV

SUBJECT: ANDEAN PACT; MODIFICATIONS IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT CODE

1. TWO JUNTA PROPOSALS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHICH WOULD SLIGHTLY RELAX THE RESTRICTIVENESS OF DECISION 24 (ANDEAN FOREIGN INVESTMENT CODE). THE FIRST IS A ONE-PARAGRAPH DRAFT DECISION WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE THE 14 PERCENT PROFIT REMITTANCE LIMITATION. EACH COUNTRY WOULD BE AT LIBERTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN RULES IN THIS REGARD.

2. THE SECOND DOCUMENT IS A PROPOSAL FOR A SET OF UNIFORM IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS FOR DECISION 24. IT CONTAINS 47 ARTICLES AND IS TO BE NEGOTIATED AND PUT INTO EFFECT AS A SEPARATE DECISION. THE FIRST 29 ARTICLES CONTAIN RESTATEMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS: DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT, SHORT-TERM CREDIT, PARENT COMPANY, SUBSIDIARY, BRANCH, INVESTMENT, AND EXTERNAL CREDIT.

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3. SOME OF THE DEFINITIONS ARE A LITTLE BROADER THAN THOSE GIVEN IN DECISION 24. THE FOLLOWING INPUTS ON PART OF A FOREIGN INVESTOR, FOR EXAMPLE, QUALIFY AS "DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT" FOR PURPOSES OF PROFIT REMITTANCE AND EVENTUAL REPATRIATION OF CAPITAL: CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES, MACHINERY, NEW AND RECONDITIONED EQUIPMENT, RAW MATERIALS, INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS, PARTS AND PIECES, REPLACEMENT PARTS AND FINAL PRODUCTS.

4. SOME FLEXIBILITY IS GIVEN TO FOREIGN FIRMS WHICH SEEK EXEMPTION FROM THE DIVESTMENT REQUIREMENT BY EXPORTING AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF THEIR PRODUCTION TO NON-ANDEAN MARKETS (ART. 34 IN DECISION 24). ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING REGULATION, THE FIRMS WOULD NOT LOSE THIS EXEMPTION UNLESS THEY FAILED TO MEET THE REQUIRED EXPORT LEVEL MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN A ROW.

5. THE PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING REGULATION WOULD LIMIT LOCAL SHORT-TERM CREDIT TO 1 1/2 TIMES THE REEXPORTABLE CAPITAL OF THE RESPECTIVE FIRM. THIS IS LESS RESTRICTIVE THAN PERUVIAN DECREE-LAW 19470, WHICH LIMITS SUCH CREDIT TO AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE FOREIGN FIRMS' CAPITAL.

6. THE PROPOSED REGULATION ENDEAVORS TO MAKE THE AUTHORIZATION, REGISTRATION AND MONITORING OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE SIX COUNTRIES AS UNIFORM AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH NO NEW RULES HAVE BEEN ADDED, THE OPERATING FUNCTIONS OF THE "ORGANISMOS COMPETENTES" IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE SPELLED OUT IN SOME DETAIL.

7. THE TWO DRAFT DECISIONS ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 22 COMMISSION MEETING. INSTEAD, THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED TO START NOVEMBER 3. THE SIX COUNTRIES ARE STILL FAR FROM AGREEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OR MODIFICATION OF THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT RULES. WHILE THE 14 PERCENT PROFIT REMITTANCE LIMITATION IS CONSIDERED BY MOST OBSERVERS, INCLUDING PACT OFFICIALS, TO BE UNREASONABLY RESTRICTIVE,

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SOME OF THE COUNTRIES ALSO WANT A SIGNIFICANT LIBERALIZATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS IN DECISION 24.

8. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS IS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/ECP.

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